

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11

IO-13 RSC-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OIC-04

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 798

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, FAO

SUBJECT: FAO WORLD FOOD MEETING

FODAG

REF: A. STATE 183798; B. ROME 9684

1. DDG JACKSON STATES FAO FEELS SEPT 20 MEETING MUST BE HELD BUT ADMITTED U.S. VIEWS REF A NOT PASSED BOERMA. HE NOTED BOERMA'S CONTACT WITH MINISTERS WHEAT EXPORTING COUNTRIES SINCE DECEMBER 1972 AS INDICATION DG'S EARLY CONCERN OVER STOCK SITUATION. SAID DG FEELS HIGH LEVEL POLICY MEETING MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS REACHING "QUICK CONSENSUS OR DECISION IN PRINCIPLE," ON POINTS HIS MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 12.

2. IN COUNTER TO U.S. VIEW THAT ADEQUATE PREPARATION REQUIRED FOR USEFUL MEETING, JACKSON NOTED CONTINUOUS UPDATING FORECASTS BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY WHEAT COUNCIL AND ITS MEETING SEP 18 FROM WHICH LATEST

INFORMATION EXPECTED. THOUGHT EXPORTERS-DG CONSENSUS IN AN "INFORMAL AND CLOSED MEETING" ON PROBLEM AND MEASURES REQUIRED WOULD FACILITATE LATER DISCUSSION FAO COUNCIL AND OTHER INTERESTED BODIES. SUBSTANTIVE WORKING OUT OF DETAILS ANY INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGREED BY EXPORTERS WOULD NEED CONSIDERATION IN FORUM COMPOSED EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS. SAW SOME INCONSISTENCY IN PRIVATE-CLOSED CONSULTATION AND PLANNED RELEASE OF OUTCOME BUT THOUGHT SUPPLY SITUATION AND PUBLIC CONCERN RENDERING SOME ANNOUNCEMENT NECESSARY.

3. IN SHORT FAO UNWILLING POSTPONE DECISION. DG MADE INITIAL MOVE WITHOUT CONSULTATION AND NOW FEELS COMMITTED. EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE LOCALLY IN LAST FEW DAYS TO USE SLIGHTEST COMMENT OF ONE GOVERNMENT TO INFLUENCE ANOTHER. ADDITIONALLY US, CANADA AND ARGENTINA EMBASSIES RECEIVING PRESS INQUIRIES RE MEETING, COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION AND VIEWS. PRESSURE CAN BE EXPECTED MOUNT THROUGHOUT WEEK.

4. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES FODAG BELIVES US MUST PARTICIPATE. DIFFICULTY WILL BE PREPARING ANY "AGREEMENT" FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS. SUGGEST MIGHT BE BEST TAKE OUTRIGHT POSITION THAT WHILE WE WILLING ENGAGE IN PRELIMINARY REVIEW, US FEELS ANY ATTEMPT REACH EXPORTERS CONSENSUS, EVEN IN PRINCIPLE, MUCH PREMATURE. IF THIS ACCEPTED, LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION MOST IMPORTANT. LATEST READING HERE APPEARS CANADA WILL BE REPRESENTED BY MINOR, CANADIAN WHEAT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, ARGENTINIAN PERM REP BELIEVES EMBASSY MINISTER WILL BE DESIGNATED AND AUSTRALIA HAS ALERTED BOTH MC CAY, BOARD OF TRADE WHO NOW IN BRUSSELS AND FIRST SECRETARY PRIMARY INDUSTRY STATIONED MILAN. EITHER AUSTRALIAN OR AN ALTERNATIVE COULD BE DESIGNATED, DEPENDING LARGELY ON U.S. SELECTION.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON INFORMING EMBASSIES AUSTRALIA AND ARGENTINA ASAP WHEN PERSON DESIGNATED REPRESENT U.S. VOLPE

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